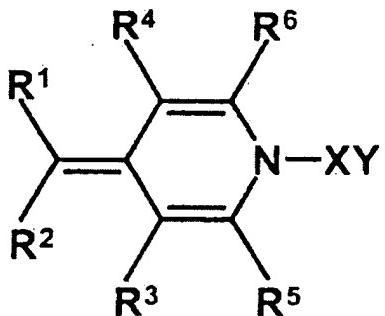


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): Compounds of the general formula I



wherein

R¹ and R² are identical or different electron withdrawing groups or one of R¹ and R² is hydrogen and the other of R¹ and R² is an electron withdrawing group each a cyano group,

R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen atoms, unsubstituted C₁-C₁₀ alkyl groups, or unsubstituted C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl groups, C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl groups, C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkyl groups or C₆-C₁₀ aryl groups, the above groups being unsubstituted or optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl groups, halogen, hydroxy and C₁-C₆ alkoxy groups, or R³ and R⁵ and/or R⁴ and R⁶ taken together with the carbon atom to which they

~~are attached form a 5 or 6 membered ring which is optionally substituted with one to four substituents selected from C₁-C₆ alkyl groups, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl groups, C₁-C₆ alkoxy groups, hydroxy or halogen.~~

X ~~is a hydrocarbon group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms and optionally 1 to 10 hetero atoms and comprising at least one group an alkyl, alkylaryl or alkyl cycloalkyl group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms and optionally 1 to 10 hetero atoms, and comprising at least one group including at least one hetero atom which is positively or negatively charged, and~~

Y ~~is a counterion.~~

2. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 1, wherein X is an alkyl, alkylaryl or alkyl cycloalkyl group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms and ~~optionally 1 to 10 hetero atoms, and comprising at least one group including at least one hetero atom which is positively or negatively charged.~~

3. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 2, wherein X is a C₁-C₁₀ alkylene group containing ~~optionally 1 to 10 hetero atoms, and comprising at least one group including at least one hetero atom which is positively or negatively charged.~~

4. (Previously presented): Compound according to claim 1, wherein X contains 1 to 6 hetero atoms.

5. (Original): Compound according to claim 4, wherein the hetero atoms are selected from nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur and phosphor atoms.

6. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 1, wherein the at least one group including at least one hetero atom which is positively or negatively charged has one positive charge.

7. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 6, wherein the at least one group which has one positive charge is a quaternary ammonium group.

8. (Original): Compound according to claim 7, wherein Y is a halogen atom.

9. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 1, wherein the at least one group which is positively or negatively charged has one negative charge.

10. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 9, wherein the at least one group which has one negative charge is selected from a the group consisting of -COO^- , -O-SO_3^- and $\text{-O-PO}_3\text{H}^+$.

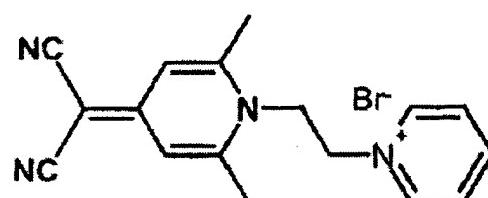
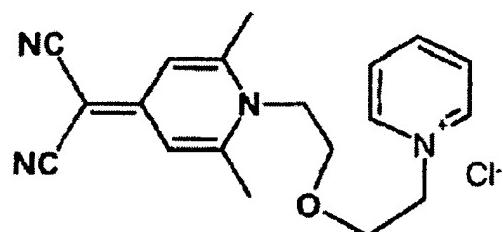
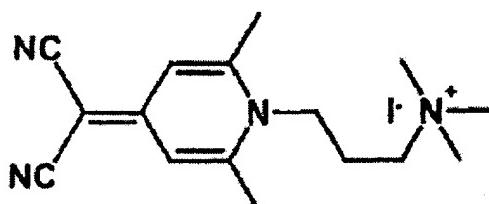
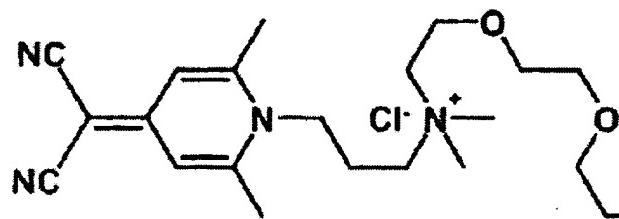
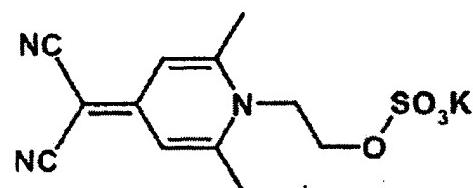
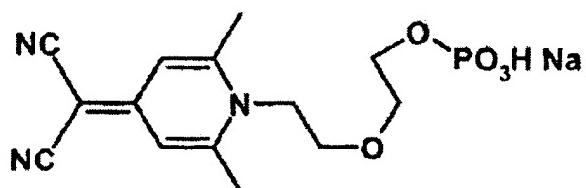
11. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 10, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of an alkaline metal atom, an earth alkaline metal atom, a triethanol ammonium ion, an aminomethylpropanol ion, and or a tristromethamine tris(tromethamine) ion.

12. (Previously presented): Compound according to claim 1, wherein residue R^3 and R^4 are each hydrogen atoms.

13. (Previously presented): Compound according to claim 1, wherein residues R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from hydrogen atoms and C₁-C₆ alkyl groups.

14. (Canceled).

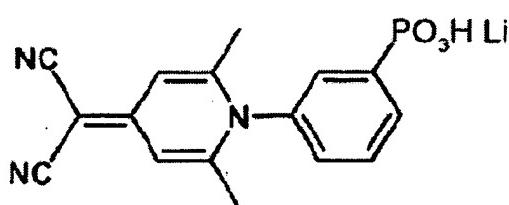
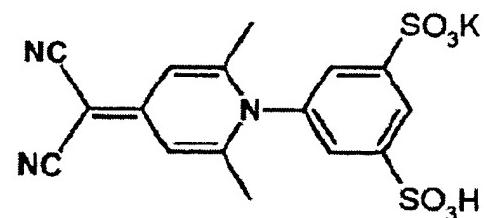
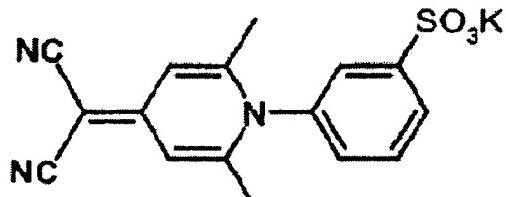
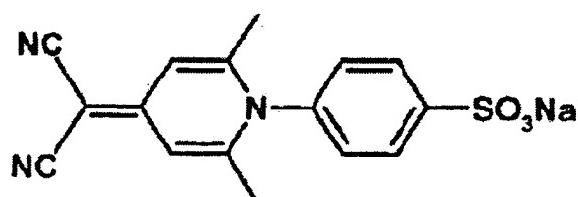
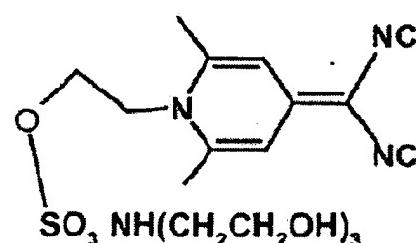
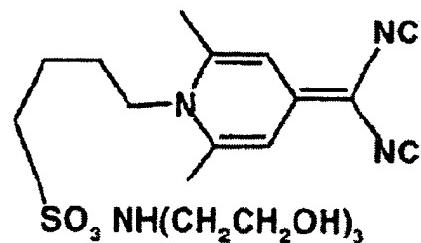
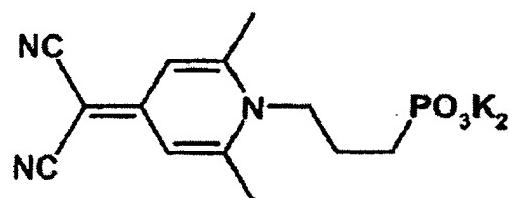
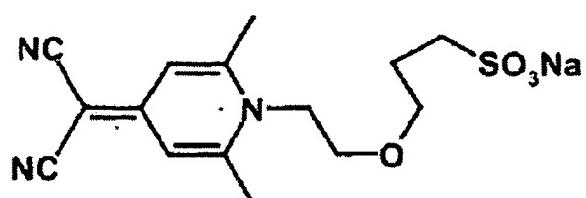
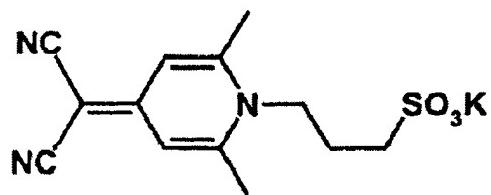
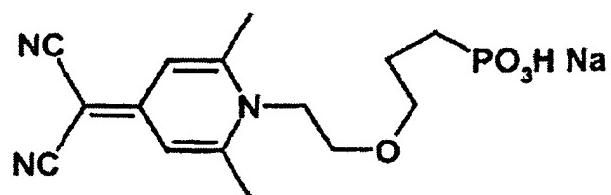
15. (Currently amended): Compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:



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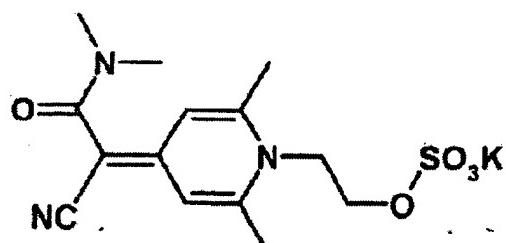
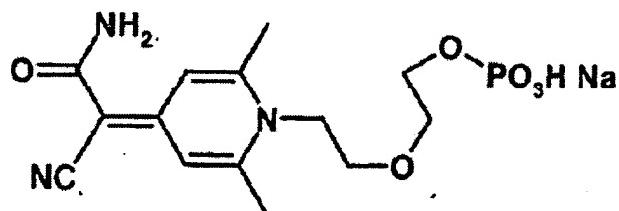
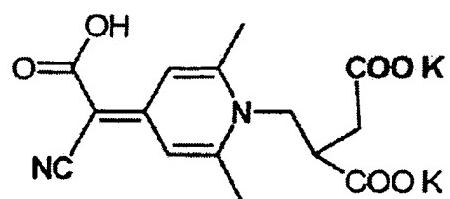
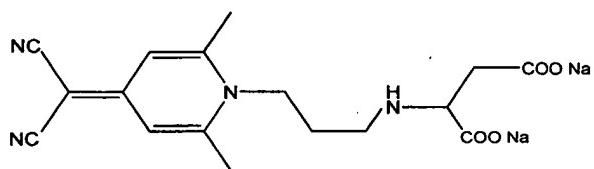
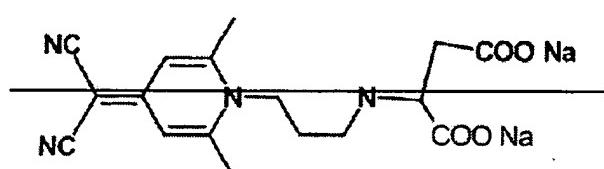
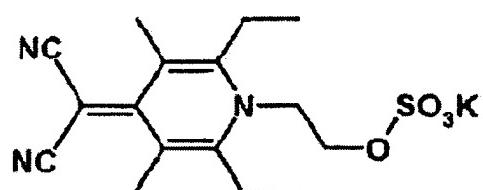
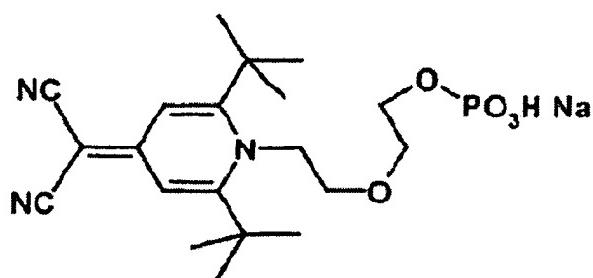
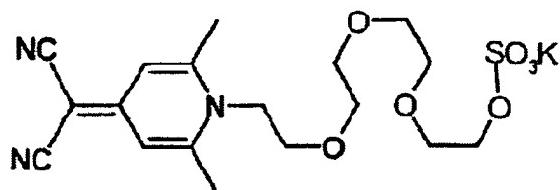
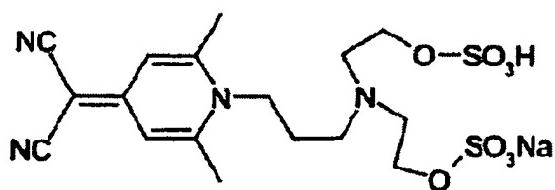
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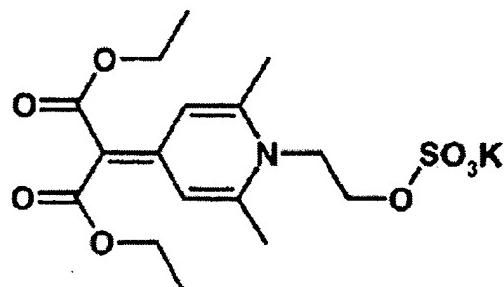
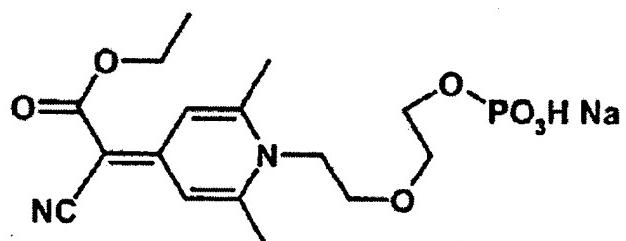
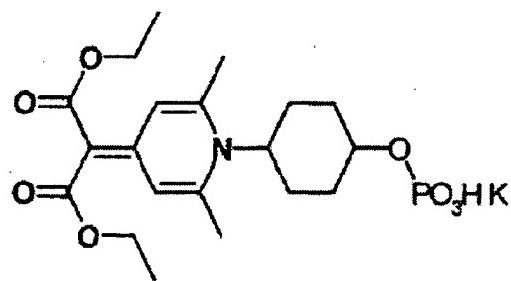
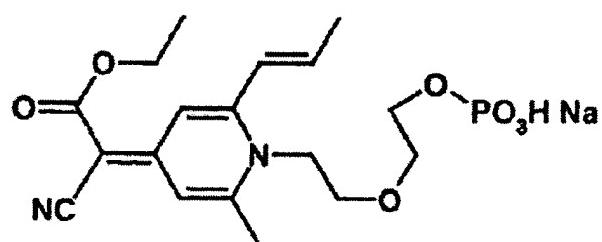
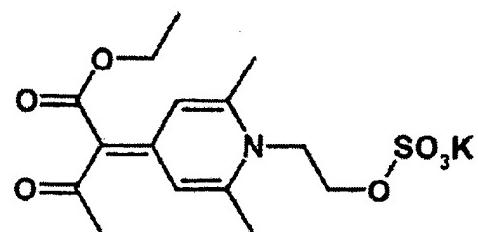
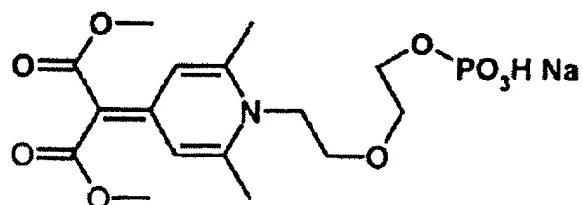
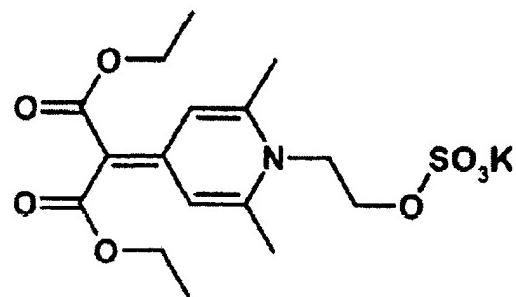
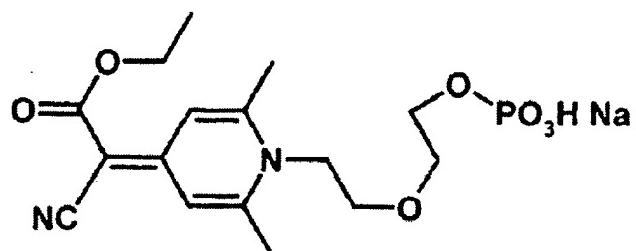
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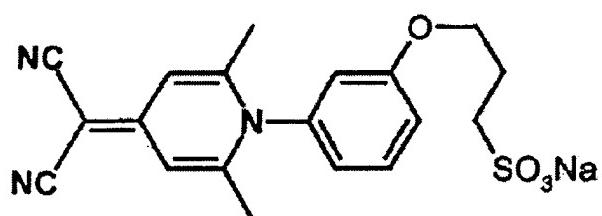
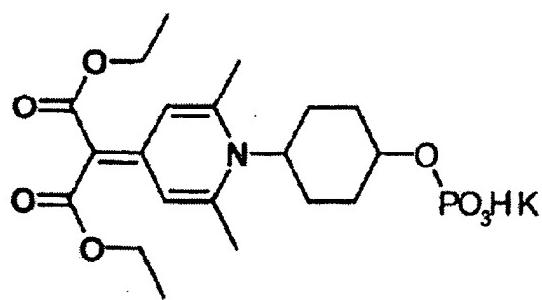
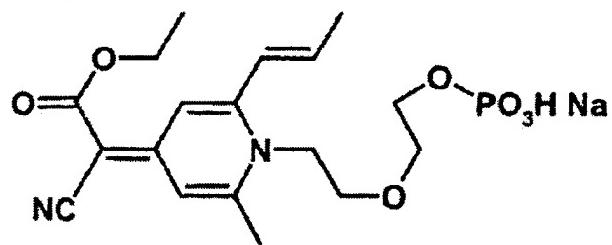
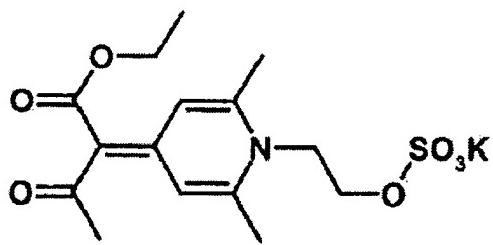
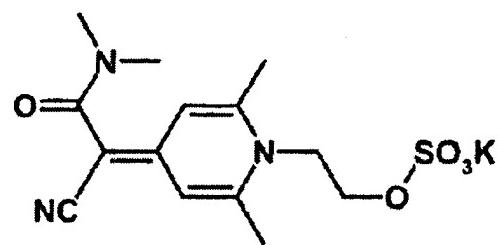
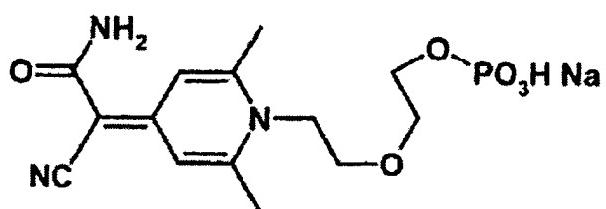
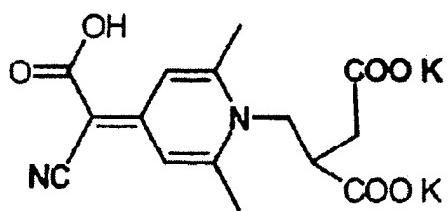
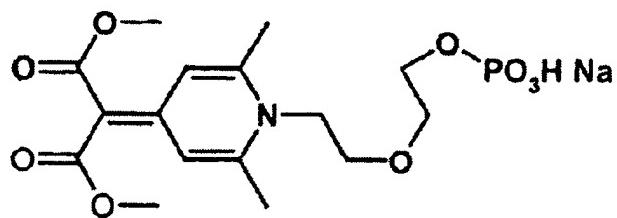
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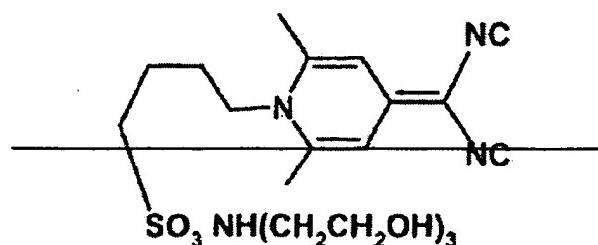
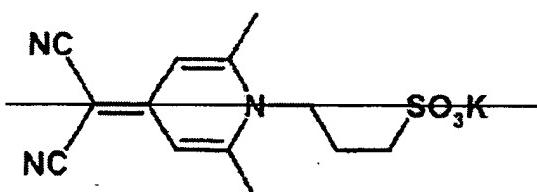
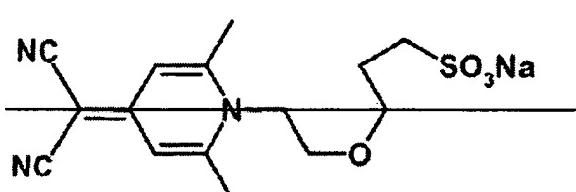
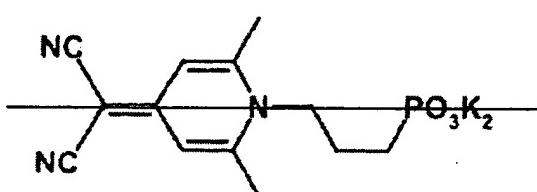
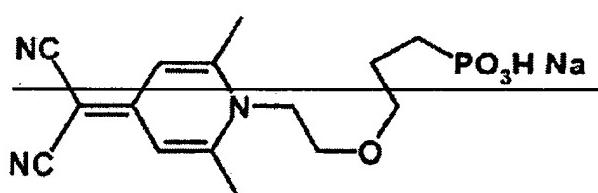
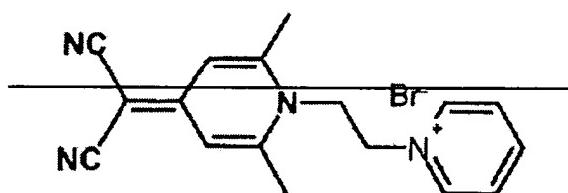
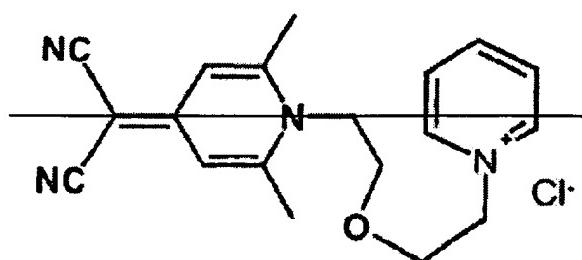
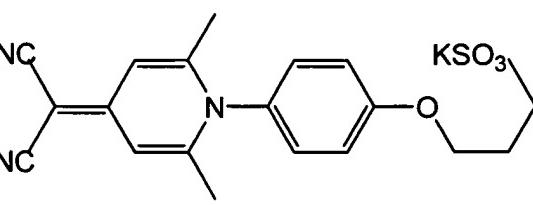
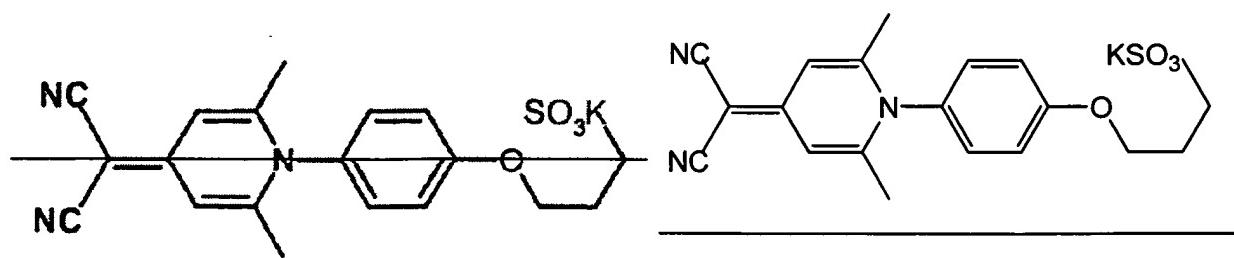
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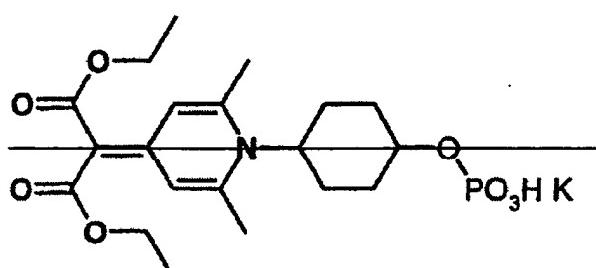
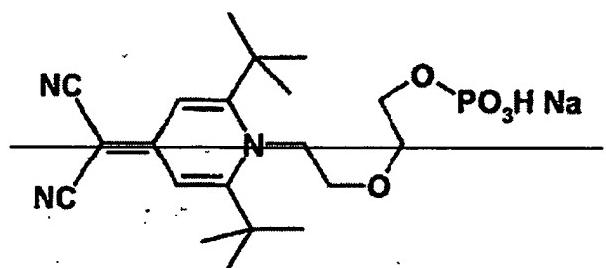
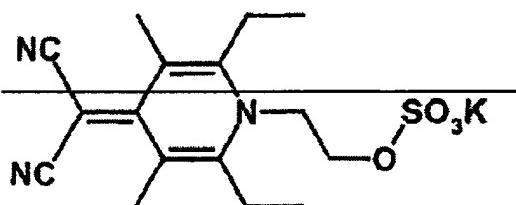
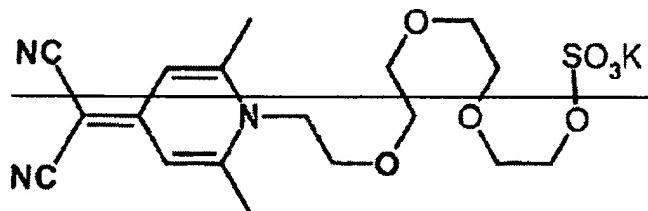
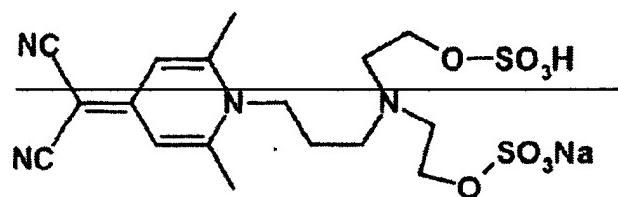
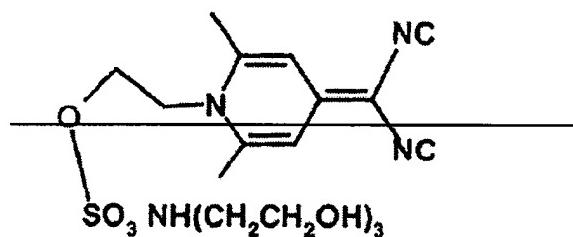
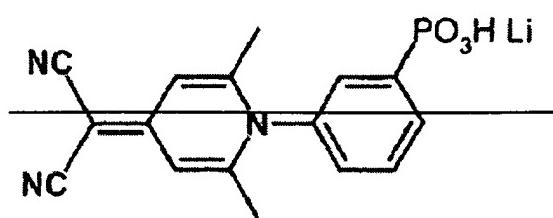
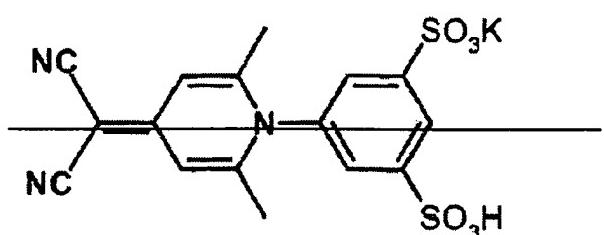
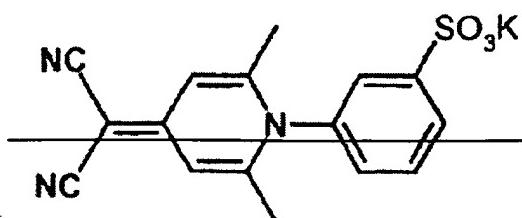
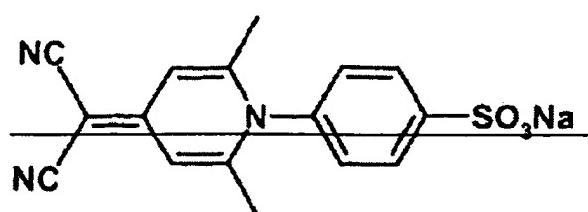
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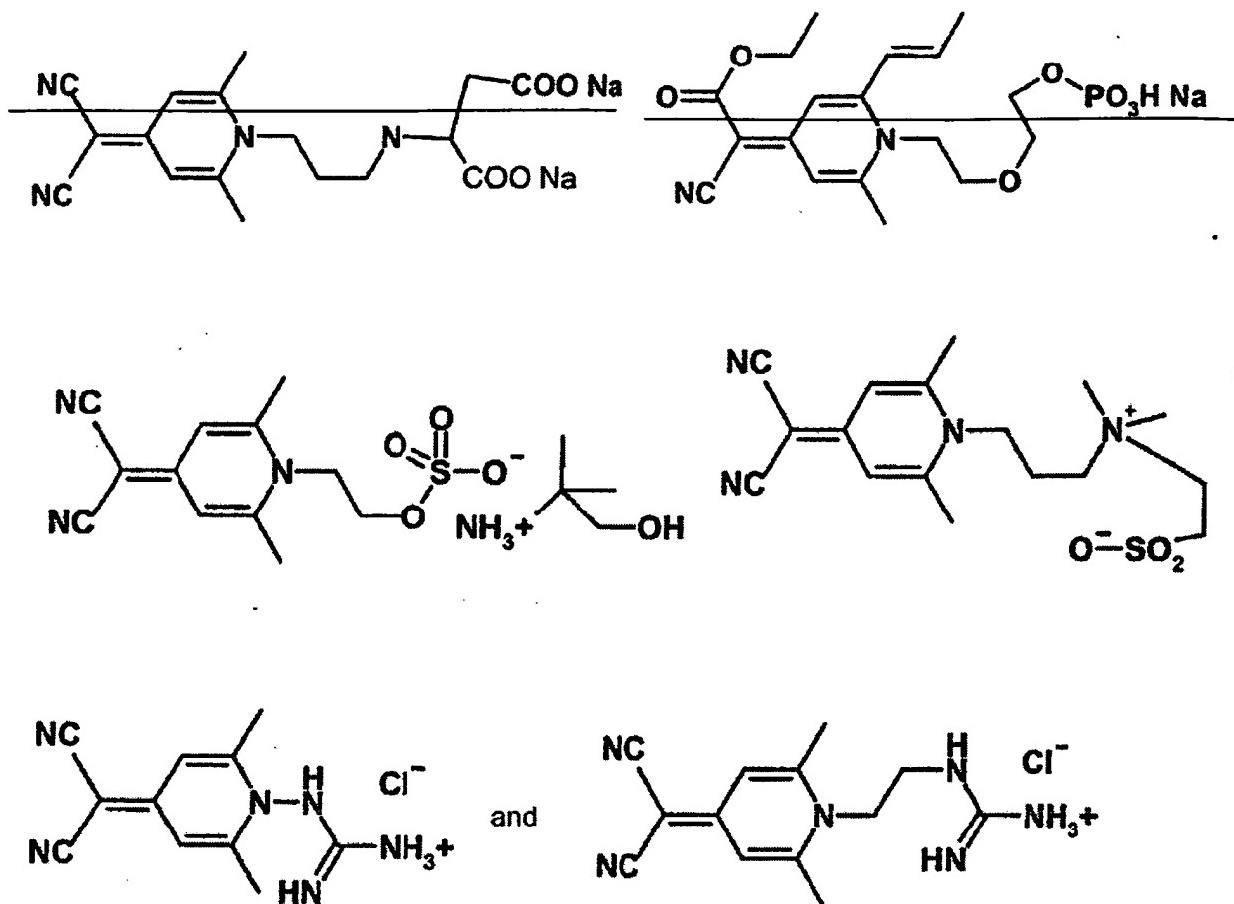


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16. (Previously presented): UV-A screening composition comprising a compound according to claim 1.

17. (Original): UV-A screening composition according to claim 16, which is a cosmetic composition for protecting skin or hair against UV-A radiation.

18. (Withdrawn): UV-A screening composition according to claim 16, comprising one or more additional sunscreens selected from the group consisting of a micronised pigment and a polymeric UV-sunscreen.

19. (Withdrawn): UV-A screening composition according to claim 18, wherein the micronised pigment is microparticulated TiO₂ of a particle size of about 5 nm to about 200 nm.

20. (Withdrawn): UV-A screening composition according to claim 18, wherein the polymeric UV-sunscreen is an organosiloxane.

21. (Withdrawn): UV-A screening composition according to claim 20, wherein the organosiloxane is an organosiloxane which contains benzmalonate groups.

22. (Canceled).